GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1130
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
COMPENSATION TO RIOT VICTIMS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has decided to visit Gujarat to ascertain the status of compensation and rehabilitation of victims of 2002 riots;

(b) if so, the time by when the such visit is likely to be conducted;

(c) whether the NHRC has visited Gujarat earlier;

(d) if so, the recommendation made by the NHRC in this regard;

(e) the reaction of the Gujarat Government thereon; and

(f) the future strategy to be adopted by NHRC for rehabilitation and compensation of riot victims?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPARAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): No, Sir.

(c) & (d): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)'s team led by the then Chairperson Justice Sh. J.S. Verma visited Ahmedabad, Badodara and Godhra from 19th March to 22nd March, 2002 and made the recommendations on two aspects i.e. Law & Order and Rehabilitation. On Law & Order, NHRC inter-alia recommended entrusting of cases to CBI, Police Reforms, Special Courts, Special Prosecutors for speedy trials and Special Cells for progress of the cases, time frames for investigations, availability of Police Desks in relief camps, survey of all affected persons, analysis of material collected by NGOs and others, action on provocative statements, identification of delinquent public servants, proper implementation of existing statutory provisions, circulars and guidelines and visit by senior political leaders and officers to various camps etc.

On the Rehabilitation side, the NHRC inter-alia recommended that the private sector including pharmaceutical industries should be requested to assist in the relief and rehabilitation process, preparation of full list of damaged and destroyed sites/monuments and the same to be published district wise, streamlining the procedure regarding obtaining of Death and Ownership Certificate etc.

(e): In their two reports both dated 31.01.2005 relating to "Relief and Rehabilitation of riot affected persons in Gujarat and "Note on Riots after Godhra Carnage", the State Government of Gujarat has mentioned the background of communal violence and the action taken by the administration as well as have mentioned the initiatives taken by the Government of Gujarat such as the ex-gratia payment made to the affected persons, cash doles and assistance for house-hold kits, supply of food-grain and other assistance to the inmates of relief camps, medical facilities, food-grains to below poverty line families in riot affected areas, housing assistance, rehabilitation of orphaned children and widows etc.

(f): The NHRC has not so far formulated any guidelines for rehabilitation and compensation of riot victims.